

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Schauer Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SCHAUER INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS**

**LANSING** – Senator Mark Schauer (D-Calhoun and Jackson Counties) announced today that he has introduced three bills to protect amateur radio operators, commonly known as ham operators, from unnecessary regulations that could impede their ability to participate in this popular hobby.

“Amateur radio operating is an important hobby to many in our community,” said Schauer. “This legislation will help ensure that “hams” are not subject to unnecessary regulation.”

Ham radio has existed since the time of radio’s invention. More than 2,000 amateur radio associations exist in the United States, operating on radio frequencies, known as “Amateur Bands.” These frequencies, which begin just above the AM broadcast band and continue to high microwave frequencies, allow ham operators to communicate with people around the globe.

But, it is more than just a popular pastime. Ham radio is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission which not only provides the frequencies, but also requires that anyone operating on an amateur frequency be licensed. To obtain a one of the three levels of available licenses, operators must pass tests on radio theory, regulations and operations. FCC regulation is, in part, a recognition of the valuable role that hams can play in facilitating communications in times of emergency.

Schauer’s legislation would protect ham operators by requiring that villages, cities and townships abide by FCC regulations without imposing additional restrictions on their activity.

“The FCC has been regulating ham radio operations since 1927,” said Schauer. “I believe our communities and radio enthusiasts are best served by letting them continue to do their job.”

Senate Bills 1237-1239 were referred to the Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs.

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*Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.*